
Aids to Impairment

905.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy acknowledges the high priority of inmate health and recognizes that some inmates will require adaptive devices to assist them with daily living activities on a temporary or permanent basis.

The Shasta County Sheriff's Office has established this policy for physicians and dentists to review and evaluate the need for adaptive devices, while considering facility security concerns regarding the use of such items.

When a physician or dentist determines that the medical condition of an inmate indicates that an adaptive device is clinically appropriate, the parameters of this policy will determine if authorization for the use of such items during incarceration should be granted, and if any equipment modifications are indicated for safety or security purposes.

905.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Office that, in accordance with security and safety concerns, medical and dental orthoses or prostheses and other adaptive devices should be permitted or supplied in a timely manner when the health of the inmate would otherwise be adversely affected or when such devices are necessary to reasonably accommodate a disability recognized under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 USC § 12101 et seq.), as determined by the Responsible Physician or dentist (15 CCR 1206(d); 15 CCR 1207).

905.3 MEDICAL OR DENTAL ORTHOSES, PROSTHESES, OR ADAPTIVE DEVICES

The following applies to inmates with any orthopedic or prosthetic devices (Penal Code § 2656):

- (a) An inmate shall not be deprived of the possession or use of any orthopedic, orthodontic, or prosthetic device that has been prescribed or recommended and fitted by a physician or dentist (see the following exception).
- (b) Any such device that may constitute an immediate risk of bodily harm to any person in the facility or that threatens the security of the facility should be brought to the attention of the Captain. If the Captain has probable cause to believe such a device constitutes an immediate risk of bodily harm to any person in the facility or threatens the security of the facility, the Captain may remove the device and place it in the inmate's property.
- (c) The Captain shall return the device to the inmate if circumstances change and the cause for removal no longer exists.
- (d) The Captain shall have the inmate examined by a physician within 24 hours after a device is removed.
- (e) The Captain should review the facts with the ADA Coordinator and shall address the issue in conjunction with the Inmates with Disabilities Policy.
- (f) The physician shall inform the inmate and the Captain if the removal is or will be injurious to the health or safety of the inmate. When the Captain is so informed but still

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does not return the device, the Captain shall inform the physician and the inmate of the reasons and promptly provide the inmate with a form, as specified in Penal Code § 2656, by which the inmate may petition the Superior Court for return of the appliance. The Captain shall promptly file the form with the Superior Court after it is signed by the inmate. The Captain should consider the following alternatives to removal of the device:

1. Reclassifying the inmate to another housing unit or administratively separating the inmate from the general population.
2. With physician or dentist approval, modify the adaptive device to meet the medical needs of the inmate and the safety and security needs of the facility.

Once an adaptive device has been approved for use, the qualified health care professional shall enter the authorization into the inmate's health file. If the inmate requires special housing, the qualified health care professional shall document this in writing and notify custody or classification personnel appropriately. The qualified health care professional shall document the general condition of the prosthesis and have the inmate sign in the medical record that he/she received the prosthesis.

Any prostheses that are brought to the facility by family members or others after the inmate has been incarcerated shall be subject to a security check. The facility shall accept no responsibility for loss or damage to any adaptive device.

905.4 REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL PROSTHESES

All requests for new or replacement medical or dental prostheses shall be individually evaluated by the Responsible Physician or dentist and reviewed for approval by the Captain. Considerations for approval shall be based upon:

- Medical needs of the inmate.
- The anticipated length of incarceration.
- The safety and security of the facility.

905.5 ACCESS TO JAIL PROGRAMS

Inmates who possess and use mobility devices and/or prosthetic appliances shall be afforded access to all Main Jail inmate programs.

Under normal circumstances, inmates who possess and use mobility devices and/or prosthetic appliances shall not be required to remove their device or appliance when participating in program activities. Special circumstances may arise; however, where Jail security concerns require a device or appliance to be removed during program activities. For example, a high security, prison experienced, pre-trial inmate facing serious criminal charges, who was also found guilty of securing contraband to fashion a weapon, may have his cane taken away when participating in group church services. In the even an inmate's use of a mobility device and/or prosthetic appliance is limited as a condition of his participation in the Main Jail program, the following shall take place:

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- (a) The Watch Commander and the contracted medical provider shall be informed, and shall review and approve or deny the decision to remove;
- (b) Custody staff and the contracted medical provider will meet and confer and agree upon a plan that continues the removal of the mobility device or prosthesis for as short a period of time as possible, consistent with Main Jail security.